

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 and 16-23 remain pending.

The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider earlier rejections in light of the following remarks. No new issues are raised nor is further search required as a result of the changes made herein. Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

**Claims 1-14 and 16-23 over Croft**

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-12, 14, 16-21 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,490,439 to Croft et al. ("Croft"); and claims 3, 6, 13 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Croft. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1-14 and 16-23 recite a system and method respectively activating an indicator and providing a first indication based on an acceptable level determined by comparing a determined link quality and a minimum link quality threshold.

Croft discloses a lighted antenna that can be used to show that the transceiver is transmitting or receiving signals, that a data connection has been made, or that a Bluetooth piconet has been detected. (See Croft, Abstract) The Examiner specifically cites col. 8, line 57 to col. 9, line 2; and col. 9, line 61 to col. 10, line 3. In these teachings, Croft discloses that the "antenna can be used to provide a visual indication that conveys information to a user about . . . the strength of the incoming signals, or whether receiver 908 is transmitting or receiving."

Although Croft conveys to a user a visual indication about the strength of an incoming signal, Croft fails to disclose any type of limitations as a basis for the visual indication. Without limitations, a user is shown the entire spectrum of signal strength from the lowest to the highest, i.e., **NOT** based on any type of threshold. Croft fails to disclose or suggest a system and method respectively activating an indicator and providing a first indication based on an

acceptable level determined by comparing a determined link quality and a minimum link quality threshold, as recited by claims 1-14 and 16-23.

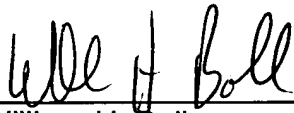
A benefit of activating an indicator and providing a first indication based on a minimum link quality threshold is, e.g., a more informative indication. In Croft's system a user is still left to wonder if the indicated signal strength is adequate for its intended purpose. In simple applications, even a low signal strength and low bandwidth may be adequate. However, in more demanding applications, a strong signal strength and high bandwidth are required. Croft's simplistic approach of simply giving a user a visual indication about the strength of an incoming signal does not give the user an indication if the signal strength meets the requirements of a particular application. By selecting an appropriately valued minimum link quality threshold Applicants' basis of indication on a minimum link quality threshold allows a more informative indication if a signal strength meets a particular application. Croft fails to disclose or suggest use of a minimum link quality threshold with such benefits.

For at least all the above reasons, claims 1-14 and 16-23 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

**Conclusion**

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William H. Bollman  
Reg. No. 36,457

**MANELLI DENISON & SELTER PLLC**

2000 M Street, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036-3307  
TEL. (202) 261-1020  
FAX. (202) 887-0336

WHB/df